

D-9243 (c)

1933

AUG 4 1939

**Mr. D. H. Cooke**

One of the leading residents of Old Shanghai passed away on Saturday at the Country Hospital in the person of Denys Cooke at the age of 53 years. He was educated at Framlingham College in England and later joined his father's firm, Harvie, Cooke & Co., arriving in Shanghai in March, 1908. Some time later he entered the services of Andersen, Meyer & Co. and was with them for six years. After this his commercial career was connected with the piece goods trade, one of his principal agencies being Thos. Edmunds & Sons. In the old Volunteer Fire Brigade days, he was a leading member of the "Victorias" and at the same time was a strong supporter of the Rowing Club. Always a keen swimmer, he played water polo for many years and latterly was a well-known referee. He was a keen golfer and when Kiangwan was the principal course, a weekend without Denys would be incomplete. When the Volunteer Firemen were disbanded he joined "A" Company, Mitho-Loong Rifles, and was a prominent member up to the time of his resignation after the 1937 mobilization. He earned the Long Service Medal. Latterly, his life had been upset completely by the death of his wife and daughter. He will be greatly missed by his many friends in China and elsewhere, and the deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives in England.

At the funeral which took place at Hungjao Road Cemetery yesterday afternoon the pallbearers were:—Sir Allan Mossop, Messrs W. J. Gande, T. B. van Corback, H. S. Openshaw, H. L. Gilson and J. H. MacGregor.

The services were conducted by Dean Trivett. Among those sending floral tributes were:—Madge, Martha and Gibby, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dierckling, Hinds and Barr, Friends at "Cafe", Jessie, Mr. C. S. Yang, Mr. L. S. Sun, etc.

Messrs Thomas Macdonald & Co. were in charge of the funeral arrangements.

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## NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS,

AUG 1 1939

**DEATHS**

COOKE.—On September 30, 1939, at the Country Hospital, Shanghai, Derry, Haskewood, passed peacefully away. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

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D.S. Pick  
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**WORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS.**

**AUG 3 1939**

**DEATHS**

COOKE.—On September 30, 1939, at the Country Hospital, Shanghai, DENYS, HASLEWOOD, passed peacefully away. Funeral will take place at Hungjao Road Cemetery at 2.30 p.m. today, October 3, 1939. By special request no flowers. Donations to British Charities.

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**SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
File No. **S.B. D. 9243**  
No. **S. B. D. 9243**

S.I., Special Branch

**REPORT**

Date June 4, 1939.

Subject Dennis Hazlewood Cooke (British)

Made by D.S.I. Logan

Forwarded by C. C. C. S. I.

**FILE**

Comm. of Police  
S.I.

Information

John Robertson

D.C. (Sp. Br.)

Dennis Hazlewood Cooke (British) was born in Hongkong in 1888 or 1889, his father being a partner in the well known firm of Harvie, Cooke & Co. He was given a first class public school education in England and on attaining manhood came out to Shanghai and entered his father's firm in 1909. His promotion in the firm was rapid and in 1912, after his father's death, he was allowed to sign P.P.

Before 1914, however, he had allowed the affairs of the firm to deteriorate with the result that Mr. Hutton, of the same firm, was sent out from England to liquidate Mr. Cooke's interests in the firm and take over control. During the period he was connected with Harvie, Cooke & Co., he is stated to have led a dissipated life despite the fact that he moved in what was considered the best social circles in Shanghai, was a member of the Race Club, Rowing Club, Shanghai Golf Club and the Light Horse. He is reputed to have been a habitué of the brothels in Soochow and Kiangse Roads for many years, both prior and after his marriage in Shanghai to his late wife which took place during the period he was with Harvie, Cooke & Co. After leaving Harvie, Cooke & Co., he left his wife in Shanghai and proceeded to England in order to settle his affairs and make a new start in life. Failing to establish himself, he is stated to have borrowed \$3,500.00 from his wife's father with

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Keep handy  
in case we need  
it.



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REPORT

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which to pay his debts and return to China. This loan was never repaid. Upon his return to Shanghai he secured a position with the firm of Andersen, Meyer & Co. in 1914, as manager of their Import Department, which provided him with an excellent salary and commission. This position he held from 1914 to 1921. During this period he is stated to have continued to lead a life of extravagant excess and to have neglected the proper support of his wife and daughter. Upon severing his connection with Andersen, Meyer & Co., he proceeded to England where he obtained some excellent Piece Goods Agencies whereupon he returned to Shanghai in 1922 and set up in business on his own account under the trade name "D.H. Cooke," 48 Kiangse Road. He continued to operate his import business at different addresses in Kiangse and Szechuen Roads until 1933, when his business was dissolved. During 1934, he worked for Hinds & Barr, Commission Agents, 100 Central Arcade. Since the end of 1934, he has been subsisting precariously by doing odd jobs of book-keeping for different firms whenever he could obtain them. During 1923 and 1924 his wife and daughter were in England but he failed to remit any money for their support with the result that a brother of his in England had to assist them. In 1924 his wife and daughter returned to Shanghai, the former taking a job with the Shanghai Telephone Co. and the

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latter being sent to Tsingtao where she was educated at the expense of certain charitable organizations and individuals. Mrs. Cooke (Dorothy Ada) who died recently, was inclined to indulge in alcohol rather heavily during the latter years of her life and is believed to have received little or no financial support from her husband, either for herself or for her daughter. The daughter, Barbara, married Ex-Sergeant Marsh of the Shanghai Municipal Police but remained in Shanghai together with a baby which was born of the marriage, after Marsh returned to England following his dismissal from the Shanghai Municipal Police a few years ago. Mrs. Marsh (Barbara Cooke) died during 1939 in Shanghai, following a long illness during which her child was in the care of Mrs. W. Bradbeer of the Shanghai Telephone Co., who resides at Lane 1221, House 14 (4th floor) Yu Yuen Road. Prior to her death, Mrs. Marsh is stated to have signed a document entitling her father, Dennis H. Cooke, to the custody of her child. Meanwhile, the child is in the care of Mrs. Bradbeer, who is stated to be giving it every attention and who is desirous of adopting it. Since the death of his daughter, Mr. Cooke has evinced an interest in his granddaughter which is in great contrast to his life long neglect of his late wife and daughter. The opinion has been expressed by certain persons, long



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acquainted with Cooke, that his desire to take over the custody of his granddaughter is due to a personal spite which he harbours against Mrs. Bradbeer and not to any natural feelings of solicitude for the welfare of the child. When it is borne in mind that Cooke is in poor financial circumstances and is without the means to afford the care due to a child of some four years of age, there appears to be good reason to doubt his motives.

Cooke is reputed to be receiving financial assistance from Mrs. Madeline Howells, an employee of the Yee Tsoong Tobacco Distributors, Ltd., who resides in a boarding house at Lane 41, Nos. 70-72, Carter Road, with whom he is stated to be on intimate terms.

Since 1930, Cooke has been residing in various boarding houses in the Settlement. At the present time he occupies a room in a boarding house at Lane 41, House 10 Carter Road, which is under the supervision of Mrs. Howells, aforesaid, though in fact it is owned by a Chinese.

FILE

DBR  
P. A. to D.C. (Sp. Br.)  
7/6

*W. Logan*

D. S. I.

D.C. (Special Branch)

MEMO. 30.5.39

S 1  
Antecedents of  
Dennis Cooke  
residing house 10,  
lane 4, Carter Road

JB

JB.  
30/5.

D.C. Special Branch.